

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



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To: Sue Dow STEP, Sylvia Danforth DEAP, Regional Managers

From: Jeff Sturm

Re: Children's group homes

In an effort to keep the current DEAP and STEP children's group home open and available to children in need, DDP will fund openings, when they occur, as a result of an individual aging out of services and moving to an adult service. We expect that the openings be filled with children who are in need of group placement and that this level of care will reduce the need for other more restrictive alternatives including out of state placement. When children enter a group home setting a cost plan should be developed based on what the child will need to be successful in the placement, assuring that all health and safety needs are met.

This memo applies only to the current children's group homes operated by STEP and DEAP. To further support children's group homes and to assure adequate funding a new rate has been established for children's group homes.

While every effort must be made to facilitate transitions to appropriate adult settings for children who turn 18 and are no longer in school, some individuals may not find options available in other sites. In those cases where an individual remains in a children's group home upon graduation from High School or upon reaching the age of 22, which ever is attained first, will be funded at the adult rate.

Several months prior to being placed in consideration for adult services a Montana Resource Allocation Protocol (MONA) will need to be completed and a cost plan created. The individual may then port or be referred for State wide screening. Once the group Home bed is vacated screenings may occur to fill the vacancy.

June 28, 2006